

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 5 (currently amended). Method of cleaning heated valves or heated lines through which hydrolyable hydrolyzable polymers are conveyed, which comprises stopping the flow of said polymers through said heated valves or heated lines, emptying said heated valves or heated lines of said polymers, passing steam through said heated valves or heated lines while heating said heated valves or heated lines to maintain the temperature of said heated valves or heated lines within $\pm 10^{\circ}\text{C}$ of the temperature to which they were heated during the flow of said polymers through them transported in which, after the polymer stream has been shut off and the polymer has been evacuated, steam is passed through the valves or lines to be cleaned while the lines or valves to be cleaned are maintained at plus/minus 10°C of the temperature at which they operate during transportation of said polymers, with the said steam being introduced via hydrolysis valves set in the walls of the valve housings of said heated valves or the walls of said heated lines or the lines and discharged via emptying apertures, wherein each hydrolysis valve comprises each of said heated valves comprises a heated housing, in the form of a guide cylinder, and is provided with a side steam supply line, a valve piston which can be moved in the axial direction in the guide cylinder, a valve block, which, in the closed position, engages into a valve seat which has an elongated opening cone and is set in the wall of the housing of the valve or line to be cleaned, and a valve block headpiece, which, in the closed valve position, terminates flush with the inside surface of the wall of the housing of the valve or line to be cleaned.

Claim 6 (original). Method according to Claim 5, wherein the supplied steam has a pressure of from 1 to 2 bar absolute.

Claim 7 (currently amended). Method according to Claim 5, wherein the amount of steam is an amount which will be sufficient to hydrolyze polymer residue in the lines or valves without cooling them.

Claim 8 (currently amended). Method according to Claim 5, wherein the steam is passed through the valves or lines until the condensate of the steam exiting at the emptying apertures is free from hydrolytic degradation products of the polymer.

Claim 9 (currently amended). Method according to Claim 6, wherein the steam is passed through the valves or lines until the condensate of the steam exiting at the emptying apertures is free from hydrolytic degradation products of the polymer.

Claim 10 (currently amended). Method according to Claim 7, wherein the steam is passed through the valves or lines until the condensate of the steam exiting at the emptying apertures is free from hydrolytic degradation products of the polymer.